

will need and on their understanding and awareness of the freedom, faith, and opportunity that are at the heart of America's greatness and goodness. These goals will be attainable in coming years if all of us—private citizens, business, labor, voluntary and professional organizations, church groups, educators, government, parents, and young people themselves—work together, building on the strengths of family, community, and country.

Youth 2000 is a nationwide call to action designed to encourage people in all sectors of society to help young Americans along the road to mature adulthood and economic and social self-sufficiency. We can all do our share to help youngsters avoid or solve problems such as illegal drug use and alcohol abuse, illiteracy, dropping out of school, and crime that cut across all social, economic, and geographic boundaries but are particularly acute in areas of rural and urban poverty.

America's economic freedom and the spirit and ingenuity of our people have long guaranteed our progress and prosperity. We can continue and expand these strengths as we approach and enter the 21st century. Employment opportunities will abound in the year 2000, but these new jobs will increasingly require workers who are able to read, compute, and learn new skills, and who have acquired education or training beyond high school. This is a goal we can reach if we remain true to the selfless volunteer spirit and the confident, forward-looking vision that have always sustained us.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim the week of September 11 through September 17, 1988, as Youth 2000 Week. I call upon all Americans to observe this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 9th day of September, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirteenth.

RONALD REAGAN

Editorial note. For the President's remarks of Sept. 9, 1988, on signing Proclamation 5857, see the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* (vol. 24, p. 1124).

Proclamation 5858 of September 12, 1988

National P.O.W./M.I.A. Recognition Day, 1988

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

From America's earliest hours as a free Nation, we have known that the cost of liberty is steep. The bill has been paid in full by the courageous members of our Armed Forces. We owe a great debt to all who have served so faithfully and sacrificed so much for our land. Among their ranks are former prisoners of war and those still missing in action, including men known to be alive after the end of hostilities. We

will never forget these gallant Americans, or their brave families, or our obligations to them.

We have a deep moral responsibility in this regard—a duty to make every possible effort to account for and return missing Americans to their homeland and to their loved ones. Until the P.O.W./M.I.A. issue is resolved, this issue stays, and will stay, among our Nation's highest priorities.

Similarly, our country has recognized the prolonged and acute suffering of the families of those who remain missing or unaccounted for. We pledge again our unflagging determination to obtain the fullest possible accounting of those still missing, to repatriate all recoverable American remains, and to relieve the suffering and uncertainty of their families.

We will also continue our intelligence efforts to confirm reports of Americans still held in captivity in Southeast Asia. Each of these reports is investigated thoroughly, and both the Executive branch and the Congress scrutinize them. We have not yet been able to confirm such reports; but, if we do, I have pledged to take decisive action to return our men. We have raised this issue repeatedly in negotiations with governments involved, despite their denials.

Our search for the truth is bound up closely with our heritage as a Nation that respects the inherent dignity and worth of every individual. Our liberty is secure because every life is precious to us; we, therefore, can write no final chapter to the story of those who answered their country's call and did not return. They gave without limit, and we owe them, and their families, no less.

To symbolize our continuing national commitment, the P.O.W./M.I.A. Flag will fly over the White House, the Departments of State and Defense, the Veterans Administration, the Selective Service System headquarters, and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on September 16, 1988. It will also fly over the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

In recognition of the special debt of gratitude all Americans owe to those who sacrificed their freedom in the service of our country and to their courageous families, the Congress, by House Joint Resolution 453, has designated September 16, 1988, as "National POW/MIA Recognition Day" and authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this occasion.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Friday, September 16, 1988, as National P.O.W./M.I.A. Recognition Day. I call upon all Americans to join in honoring all former American prisoners of war, those still missing, and their families who have made extraordinary sacrifices on behalf of our country. I also call upon State and local officials and private organizations to observe this day with every appropriate ceremony and activity.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of September, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirteenth.

RONALD REAGAN